



**American Red Cross**

May 18, 2004

Southeastern Michigan Region  
Blood Services  
100 Mack Avenue  
Box 33351  
Detroit, MI 48232-5351  
(313) 833-4440

Mr. John D. Ferry, Jr.  
State Court Administrator  
Michigan State Supreme Court  
State Court Administrative Office  
925 W. Ottawa, PO Box 30048  
Lansing, MI 48909

**RECEIVED**

MAY 24 2004

State Court Administrative Office

Dear Mr. Ferry:

The American Red Cross Blood Services has found that the courts sometimes offer offenders the option of donating blood as a means of fulfilling their community service requirements. While we know and appreciate that this option is offered with the best possible motives, it is **not** an acceptable option.

We and more importantly the FDA do not consider such donors to be volunteers as the FDA defines it. Moreover, the American Association of Blood Banks, which dictates STANDARDS that we choose to follow, considers community service credits for parolees and alternative sentencing / judicial sentence reduction to represent inducements for blood donation and therefore, does not recognize these donations as coming from volunteer donors.

Since we only use blood from volunteer blood donors, we would have to retrieve these blood units from the hospitals, if such donors donated, and we learned about it. This creates anxiety for the hospitals, physicians, and patients. In addition, we have to report it to the FDA.

On a positive note, these individuals can do many other types of volunteer service within the American Red Cross system and elsewhere.

Thank you for your help in distributing this letter to judges in the metropolitan Detroit area and throughout the state.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Newman, MD  
Medical Director

To donate blood, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE